



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Faculty of Music presents

# STUDENT COMPOSER CONCERTS

Constantine Caravassilis & Christian Floisand, co-curators

'08-'09 SEASON - CONCERT II

NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> 7:30PM - WALTER HALL



CD 2008 -- 91  
90-91

*featured composers:*

Sahlia Wong

- *Orpheus' Plight* -

Kelly Semkiw, Leslie Bickle, Sarah Moore, sopranos; Michelle Dussard, Sahlia Wong, altos

The poem *Orpheus' Plight* was written by Jordan Fantauzzo, a friend of the composer. He is a tenor in his second year of vocal performance at the University of Western Ontario. It talks about the beauty and the power of music.

SAHLIA WONG is in her second year at the Faculty of Music. She is currently studying under Norbert Palej. *Orpheus' Plight* is her first attempt at writing a vocal piece solely for women's voices.

Kevin Lau

- *The Alchemist's Riddle* -

Tim Francom, vibraphone

*The Alchemist's Riddle* follows a traditional template (fast-slow-fast), but one that is internally lacking in discrete sections. The absence of hard juxtapositions encouraged me, paradoxically, to include a variety of pitch classes, rhythmic ideas, and timbres as an experiment in musical alchemy — the attempt to synthesize 'gold' (structural unity) from 'common metals' (the surface material).

KEVIN LAU's music has been performed by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, the Esprit Orchestra, the Georgian Bay Symphony, the Cecilia String Quartet, the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, and many others. He has composed the music to over fifteen films, including the Canadian feature *Gooby*. He is the director and co-founder of the Sneak Peek Orchestra.

Robert Best

- *Suite in G* -

Patrick Power, guitar

I. *Allemande* II. *Sarabande*

These two dances are from a larger work for guitar called *Suite in G for Guitar*. In this work, the fusion potential of jazz and Baroque music is explored. The two dances performed from the suite demonstrate how jazz harmony can find expression over characteristic melodic and rhythmic aspects of Baroque dances. A balance between Baroque formal attributes and jazz harmony was the important fusion goal of these dances and the remaining dances not performed, which include a *Prelude*, *Courante*, *Gavotte*, *Bourree*, and a *Gigue*.

ROBERT BEST is a doctoral composition student at University of Toronto under the teaching supervision of Alexander Rapoport. He has written compositions for most instruments and large ensembles. His doctoral compositions concentrate on musical styles that can fuse jazz, world, and popular music into meaningful concert repertoire. He will complete his 3<sup>rd</sup> year doctoral recital in February 2009.

Peter Hart

- *Three Short Pieces about Toilets* -

Janet Sit, piano

PETER HART is a composer/guitarist from Waterdown Ontario. Peter is a first-year student in common year at U of T wishing to enter the composition program next year. Peter began composing jazz tunes three years ago, however the music of Stravinsky, Varese and Schoenberg persuaded Peter to dive into the world of art music. Peter strives to interject human qualities into his music by analyzing the rhythmic and emotive patterns of literature and converting them into musical ideas.

## Casey Goranson

### - *Kuchean Memories & Hommage to Scriabin* -

Renee Kruisselbrink, piano

*Kuchean Memories* is divided into three parts, each of which contains non-Western elements. The first and last are meant to evoke the bustling marketplace of a town in western China, whereas the second section evokes the calm of the Buddhist temple nearby. While, admittedly, Casey finds many of Scriabin's piano works too technically challenging to play, he has tried to incorporate these elements into his own music. *Hommage to Scriabin* was composed only last Wednesday as part of an assignment. In it, Casey attempts to emulate the spirit of Alexander Scriabin's early works.

CASEY GORANSON was born on June 10th, 1986 in Toronto, Canada. For as long as he can remember, his mother has performed the traditional North Indian dance form kathak, which meant that he could often listen to her practising. This eventually generated a deep fascination with non-Western music, which continues to play an increasingly prominent role in Casey's compositions.

## Patrick Murray

### - *Urbanite* -

Patrick Murray, Peter Grant-Mackechnie, piano

*Urbanite* is about noises of the bustling city which jolt you awake as you race to your nine-to-five office job. Paying little attention to the mindless tasks that pass across your desk, you long for the end of the day. Finally you return home, exhausted, for a much needed rest. But the next hectic day is only a short sleep away.

PATRICK MURRAY is a first-year student. As a pianist, he was the 2008 OMFA provincial winner for grade 10 piano. His piece *Urbanite* placed first in the 2008 K-W Kiwanis Music Festival. Patrick is also an avid canoe tripper and Monty Python addict. He currently studies piano with Henri-Paul Siesic and is in Norbert Palej's first year composition class.

## Massimo Guida

### - *Il Sogno* -

Tristan Durie, flute; Massimo Guida, guitar; Peter Grant-Mackechnie, piano

*Il Sogno* translates as "The Dream" and is supposed to represent the emotions and the light airy feeling that you experience when dreaming. The transition between the first theme and the second theme is supposed to be smooth and not too noticeable to reflect the uncertainty of a dream. The harmony is predominantly diatonic with some chromaticism and added notes to represent the misty undefined feel of a dream.

MASSIMO GUIDA is a first-year student aspiring to finish a degree in composition and pursue a career in the field. He plays classical guitar and he is currently enrolled in the composition class taught by Norbert Palej. The style of music he is most interested in is that of the late romantics, particular Italian opera, as well as film music and sacred vocal music.

## Joseph Trefler

### - *Prayer* -

Adanya Dunn, soprano solo; Jelena Iri, Sarah Schabas, Amy Moodie, Sarah Svendsen, sopranos;  
Anastasia Tchernikova, alto; Patrick Murray, tenor; Massimo Guida, baritone; Peter Grant-Mackechnie, bass

*Prayer* was written for the Introduction to Composition course. The sole text for the composition is the word "hallelu" or "praise." The norm for this type of composition is joyful and upbeat, but this one is different in that it focuses on the introspective aspects of prayer and takes on a more melancholy tone.

JOSEPH TREFLER was born in 1990 and began composing at the age of 16. His first complete work, a musical *Underground*, was performed four times in early 2008 at Northern Secondary School and received an award of excellence from the Sears Drama Festival. He is currently doing an arrangement of a thirteen-minute opera called *Salad Days* and is developing a portfolio for the composition program at U of T.

## Eric Stewart

### - *Vier Stücke für Geige und Klavier* -

Renee Kruisselbrink, piano; Arbone Andreea, violin

*Vier Stücke für Geige und Klavier* was written in 2006 for a violinist and dear friend of mine. At this time, I was going through a sort of "expressionist" phase in my composing. My goal was to blend more dissonant harmonies with Brahms-like lyricism.

ERIC STEWART was born in Buffalo, NY and received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Composition from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD where he was the recipient of the Louis Cheslock Memorial Scholarship. He has studied under Michael Hersch, Christopher Theofanidis, and Samuel Adler. Eric has twice been a finalist in the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. His music has been performed in Baltimore, Prague, Berlin, and New York. Also a conductor, Eric has been coached by Paul Vermet and Gustav Meier. He is currently a first-year DMA student in composition at the University of Toronto, studying with Norbert Palej.